possible assistance to the Indian exporters in the anti-dumping investigation at the diplomatic level.

Closure of Extension Centres in Kerala

6540. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether small industries service institute under Development Commissioner (SSI) have decided to close down their extension centres at shornur, Kozhikode, Muvattupuzha and Attingal in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to review their decision not to close down Extension Centres which are useful for SSI sectors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In 1992, a review of activities of SIDO (Small Industries Development Organisation) was taken up and it was found that SSIs were not using the services of the Extension Centres sufficiently. As such since their utility was not there, 37 Extension Centres were decided to be closed down which include the Extension Centres in Kerala. Respective State Governments were offered to take over these Centres. They were closed only after no State came forward to continue the activities.

(c) and (d) The assets of Extension Centres at Shoranur have already been transferred to Municipal Council, Shoranur, that of Muvattupuzha to Telecommunication and that of Attingal to Science & Technology Development (STED) Project, respectively. As regards Extension Centre Calicut, decision has been taken to transfer the assets to STED and COWD. In order to avoid spreading the resources of SIDO too thinly, it is not freasible to restart or open such centres.

Modernisation of Legal System

6541. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI K.S. RAYADU :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out a comprehensive strategy to modernise and streamline the civil justice through computerisation and adoption of improved techniques/methods of management practices from drastic improvement in speedy disposal of cases;

(b) if so, the details of the plan under implementation/to be launched during the current year – State-wise and provision of funds therefor;

(c) the status of fresh court cases registered during 1996-97 previous backlog of cases and cases cleared State-wise and new strategies worked out State-wise for disposal of justice; and

(d) other judicial reforms finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Dry Fruits

6542. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of the dry-fruits exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years; country-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of dry fruits during the Ninth Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Total quantity of dry-fruits such as cashewnuts, almonds, hazelnuts, walnuts, figs dried, grapes (dried) and mixture of nuts exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are as follows :-

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value Rs. (Crores)
1994-95	83480	1305.90
1995-96	77375	1319.71
1996-97 (April-Sept'96)	39428	721.05

, The country-wise details of exports are available in the Annual Number of Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) Some of the steps taken to promote exports of agricultural products including dry fruits are :-

(i) Providing financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;